

R E S T
FOR A
WEARY SOUL;
OR, THE
PILGRIM *at his Journeys End.*

BEING THE
Last LEGACY of a *Father* to his *Children*,
when on his *Death-bed*.

In which are contain'd

1. The Children's Duty to God, their Mother, and themselves.
2. A Copy of Verses written by the Father a little before his Death.
3. Godly Meditations.
4. The Fathers last Gift to his Children.

*Very pleasant to read, profitable to practise, and of excellent Use
to all People that desire to live a Godly Life in this present
World.*

Cirencester: Sold by GEO. HILL.



REST for a *Weary Soul* &c.

The FATHER'S Admonition to his CHILDREN before his Death; wherein he informs them, 1st, of their Duty to God 2dly, to their Mother, and, 3dly, of that they owe to each other.

MY Children, I must now leave you: I am going to a better Place; my Glass is almost run; I have fought a good Fight, and have finished my Course, and there is laid up for me a Crown of Glory. In my Youth I was wild and ungodly, as most were; I spent my Time idly, and never regarded what I did, so I could but please and satisfy my appetite. I have since my Conversion (Thanks be to God!) taken heed to my Ways, and lived as upright as I could; for if I did any wrong it was against my Knowledge. I have lived according to the Scripture-rules as much as Flesh and Blood was able; I loved the worst of my Enemies, who cast many aspersions upon me; but I owe no Man any ill, heartily forgiving all that have been my Enemies, as I hope to be forgiven thro' Christ. My dear Children let me intreat you to be admonished by my Words; and take my Exhortation as a Legacy, I having, ye well know, very little else to leave you. *First*, let me put you in mind of your Duty to God, *2dly*, to your Mother, and *3dly*, to one another.

But first of your Duty to God.

Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh to you, *James* iv. 8. This very Exhortation of St. *James* is enough to induce you without any other. He tells you, that,

that, if you fear God, he [God] will defend you; if you are willing to turn from your evil Ways, he will receive you: He desires not the Death of a Sinner; so that, if you are not saved, it is your Fault. And, indeed, the Text comprehends a great deal of Comfort; it brings Salvation to a wretched Sinner, it speaks to all Men. So much by way of Exhortation. Let me now hasten to the first particular which was to lay before you your Duty to God. Fear God and keep his Comandments; for this is the whole Duty of Man. *Eccles. xii.* There you see your Duty. Fear to offend is your Duty, tho' comprehended so short. Be careful to serve him, fearful to offend him, diligent to keep his Laws, and willing to obey his Commands; abide all his Corrections with Patience, murmur at none of his Ways, live honestly, love all Men, swear not, lie not, steal not, cheat not, nor take the Lord's Name in vain; covet not that which is another Man's, love the Lord with your whole Heart, fear him and praise his Name; bridle your Lusts and unruly Passions, resist the Devil and he will flee from you; suffer any Thing for your Religion, yea, Death itself; and in all Things, submit to the Will of God. I shall conclude this Head with the following Precepts, viz.

1 *Fear to do any Thing against that God whom you love, and you will not love to do any Thing against that God whom you fear.*

2 *Let your Prayers be as frequent as your Wants, and your Thanksgivings as your Blessings.*

3 *In the Morning think what you have to do, for which ask God's Blessing at Night, of what you have done that is sinful, for which ask him Forgiveness,*

4 *Take an exact account of your Life, be not afraid to look upon the Score, but dread to increase it: To despair because a Man is sinful is to be worse because he hath been bad*

5. *Consider the Shortness of your Life, and Certainty of Judgment, the Reward for the Good, and the Punishment for the Wicked; therefore make even by Repentance every Day, and you will have but one Day to Repent of before you die.*

6. *Do Injury to no one; since by Injuring others, you teach them*

them to Injure you

7. Innocence will be the best Guard. He that dares be wicked sometimes for his Advantage, will always be so if his Interest requires it.

And to much for the first Head I come now, in the second Place, to tell of the Duty you owe to your Mother.

Honour your Father and Mother, &c. is the Fifth Commandment. A wise Son heareth his Father's Instructions, *Prov. xiii. 1.* And again, *Prov. vi. 20.* My Son keep thy Father's Commandments, and forsake not the Law of thy Mother. Here you may see that Duty to your Parents is a Command of God. SOLOMON, the wisest Man that ever was, gives you this Character of a wise Son, that is of a dutiful Son: He hearkens to his Father's Instructions, and willingly obeys them. Consider then, my Sons, on what I have said; honour your Mother when I am in the Grave. I give you this charge in the Sight of God, and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thirdly, and lastly, I come to the Duty you owe to one another.

My Children, take warning by the vicious Habits of other Men, and you will do well; whilst others strive one against another, do you strive to do good one for another; and whilst others are at Variance and revile each other, do you pray for and comfort one another.

To conclude.

Mind what I have said, and lay it up in your Hearts and implore God's Blessing upon it, I must leave you; but I hope we shall, one Day, meet Face to Face, in the Presence of the Almighty, where Pleasures flow, and Joys abide for evermore.

A COPY of VERSES that he made upon himself not long before his Death.

Forbear

FOrbear, fond Man, and weep no more; 'tis vain;
 When Heaven decrees tis Folly to complain:
*This worldly Mass is subject to decay,
 And Death and Nature all Things must obey.
 The blushing Rose smiles with the Morning Sun,
 Just then looks gay, now withers and is gone.
 Pardon my Sins Almighty God I pray;
 Forgive them all, then take me hence away.
 Then my provoking Soul shall upward fly,
 And leave with joy, this World of Vanity.*

Some Godly MEDITATIONS.

NO Creature, under Heaven can afford my Soul any Comfort, only thou, O Lord, the Physician of Souls: Thou bringest a Man nigh unto Death, and restorest him unto Life again, thereby shewing his Weakness and thy Power. Wherefore all Love and Praise be to thee O God.

O God, I extol thy Name; and tho' I am a sinful Creature, I will not cease to give thee Thanks to the utmost of my Strength: I will declare thy Justice and Mercy, and, whilst I live, I will praise thy Name.

As for Man, he is but Dust, and vanishes; his Life is but a Span, and full of Misery.

Oh! heavenly Father, let me not forget mine own Frailty; let me consider what I am, and remember what I should be; then shall I forget to leave myself, but long after thee.

My Sins, O Lord, are before my Face; I can turn no way but they pursue me. I intreat thee to pardon them. Consider my Necessity, most mighty God, and deliver me, for thy dear Son's sake.

Altho' mine Offences are more in Number than the Hairs of my Head, yet Lord, shew Mercy and forgive them. I know tho' my Sins were as Scarlet, thou canst make them white as Snow therefore, O Lord, to thee be Glory for ever-

evermore.

Truly, Lord I see no Cause why I should long to abide in this Life. If I was arrived to such Persecution as *St. Paul* was, I should desire earnestly, as he did to be with *Christ*.

O God, execute those things upon me as it shall seem best unto thy divine Wisdom, and as thou shalt see it most fitting for me.

O my God mortify the Man of Sin which reigneth in me, that rebels against the Spirit, keeps me in Ignorance, and envies the Fruition of thee.

Thy Ways, O Lord, are those of Righteousness, and thy Commandments conduct to heavenly Honour. As for thy Will it is the well-spring of Life, and the fountain of all Felicity.

O God of all Truth, my panting Soul longeth after thee because thou art the Confirmation of all Happiness. In the Sight of thy Glory I am ashamed of my Transgressions.

Oh! my Sins are too many in Number, of too deep a Dye, too often repeated, and too much followed and Practised.

O Lord, I beseech thee, extend thy Mercy towards me; lift up my Soul unto thy Throne; and upon my Knees intreat thy Divine Majesty not to lay my Offences before thy Eyes, but turn thy Face from them, and forgive me.

O my God, arise and deliver me from this Vale of Wickedness, where my Temptations to Sin are many, and my Lusts and Corruption strong; and do thou give me a clean Heart, and renew a right Spirit within me. Then shall I give Praise to my God as long as I live.

O Lord, awake me out of the sleep of Sin; put me in mind of my Duty to thee, that the great Breach may be made up before I go hence.

Lord, I commend my Soul into thy Hands, for thou hast redeemed me, O God of Truth. Be thou my Defence against mine Enemies, that, notwithstanding all *Satan's* Subtily, he may not have the Power to do me any Evil. Give thine Angels Charge over me, to defend me, that nothing may hurt my Body and Soul.

His

His Last GIFT to his Children.

MY Children dear, a Legacy
With you I now do leave;
Pray read it o'er, and you will soon
My Purposes perceive.

First to your God your Duty shew,
And live up to his Laws;
Then Comfort you'll hereafter take,
And vindicate his Cause.

Next give all Honour that is due
Unto your Mother dear;
Such will be happy, you will find,
While they do tarry here.

Love to your Brethren God commands;
That you shall always shew;
You then will ever live in Peace,
In Joy and Honour too.

Pray love your Neighbour as yourself,
Behave to him most just;
In all your Thoughts, your Words and Works,
That God in God may trust.

Then he'll preserve you in your Steps,
That you shall never fall;
He will be always your sure Friend,
Your God, your Guide, and all.

F I N I S.

